



**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
NOVEMBER 2, 2021 GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

**CANVASSING BOARD MEETING
AFTER-ACTION**

November 1, 2021
Office of the Supervisor of Elections
2700 NW 87th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

Canvassing Board Members:

Honorable Raul Cuervo, County Court Judge	Present
Rafael E. Granado, City of Miami Beach City Clerk	Present
Judy Hoanshelt, Qualified Miami Beach Elector	Present

Substitute/Alternate Members:

Honorable Eleane Sosa-Bruzon, County Court Judge	Absent
Farosha Andasheva, Qualified Elector	Present

Staff:

Jean Olin – Attorney representing the Canvassing Board	Present
Regis Barbou – Executive Associate II, Office of the City Clerk	Present
Elizabeth Prieto - Elections Coordination Manager, Miami-Dade County Elections	Present

Meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m.

1. Approval to Commence Vote-by-Mail ballot opening, processing, and duplication.

Action:

- i. The Miami Beach General and Special Elections Canvassing Board (Canvassing Board), composed of Raul Cuervo, County Court Judge; Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk; and Judy Hoanshelt, Qualified Miami Beach Elector, authorized the Miami-Dade Elections Department staff to commence the Vote-by-Mail opening, processing, and duplication.

2. Vote-by-Mail ballot Opening and processing.

Action:

- i. Elizabeth Prieto, Elections Coordination Manager, notified the Canvassing Board that as of November 2, 2021, 5,816 Vote-by-Mail ballots had been processed. Of which, 5,762 were deemed valid and 54 were presumed invalid.
- ii. The Canvassing Board, with the assistance of Ms. Prieto, canvassed the 54 presumed invalid Vote-by-Mail ballots. The alleged deficiencies for said Vote-by-Mail ballots are:

Signature does not match	49
Voters precinct not voting	4
Deceased	1
Total Amount	54

1. Ms. Prieto explained to the Canvassing Board that 49 Vote-by-Mail ballots were determined by the Miami-Dade County Elections Department Vote-by-Mail Section that the signatures on the Vote-by-Mail Voter Certificate did not match what is on file at the Miami-Dade Elections Department:
 - a. Of those, 21 were unanimously accepted by the Canvassing Board as matching the signature in the voter registration system. The 21 Vote-by-Mail ballots were marked across the face of the envelope "Accepted as Legal" by Judge Cuervo.
 - b. Of those, 28 were unanimously "soft rejected" by the Canvassing Board, as not matching the signature in the voter registration system.
 - c. Ms. Prieto explained that until 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd day after an election, the Supervisor of Elections will allow an elector who has returned a Vote-by-Mail ballot that does not include the elector's signature or has a signature mismatch to complete and submit an affidavit to cure the unsigned or signature mismatch Vote-by-Mail ballot. The elector shall provide identification to the Supervisor and must complete a Vote-by-Mail Ballot Cure Affidavit. As such, the Vote-by-Mail ballots that the Canvassing Board deemed did not match could only receive a "soft reject" at this time.
 - d. Jean Olin, Attorney representing the Canvassing Board, explained to the Canvassing Board, before reviewing the 54 presumed invalid Vote-by-Mail ballots, that signatures declared not matched must be determined by a majority vote of the Canvassing Board and beyond a reasonable doubt.
2. Ms. Prieto explained to the Canvassing Board that 4 of the voters who returned a Vote-by-Mail ballot had subsequently to receiving their Vote-by-Mail ballot, but before the voted Vote-by-Mail ballot had been received by the Elections Department, had registered to vote in a location outside the City of Miami Beach, and thus not illegible to vote in the November 2, 2021 Miami Beach General and Special Elections.
 - a. The Canvassing Board unanimously rejected the 4 Vote-by-Mail Ballots with voters currently not registered in a precinct in Miami Beach. These 4 Vote-by-Mail ballots were marked across the face of the envelope "Rejected as Illegal" by Judge Cuervo.
3. Ms. Prieto explained to the Canvassing Board that 1 of the Vote-by-Mail Ballots returned was for a deceased individual who had died in June of 2021. Ms. Prieto added that after the Elections Department mailed out the Vote-by-Mail ballots on October 5, 2021, the State of Florida updated its database to indicate the voter was deceased.
 - a. The Canvassing Board unanimously rejected the Vote-by-Mail ballot mailed to a deceased voter. This Vote-by-Mail ballot was marked across the face of the envelope "Rejected as Illegal" by Judge Cuervo.
4. Miami-Dade Elections staff, in the presence of the Canvassing Board, opened the valid Vote-by-Mail ballots.

5. Duplication of ballots.

Action:

1. Miami-Dade Elections personnel showed the Canvassing Board 7 ballots that had been marked by the voter in a way that the electronic vote-counting equipment could not properly count the ballot. The Canvassing Board first looked at the entirety of each ballot for consistency to determine whether the voters had made a definite choice in a contest. After unanimously determining that voter intent was clear in the race(s) or on the measure(s) for which the voting equipment could not detect voter intent in each of the 7 ballots, the Canvassing Board oversaw the duplication of these 7 ballots.
2. Ms. Olin reminded the Canvassing Board and staff not to discuss with anyone any of the votes seen today during the duplicating of the ballots until tabulation is complete on Election night.

Canvassing Board Meeting concluded at 4:02 p.m.

Judge Cuervo thanked the Election staff for their work.